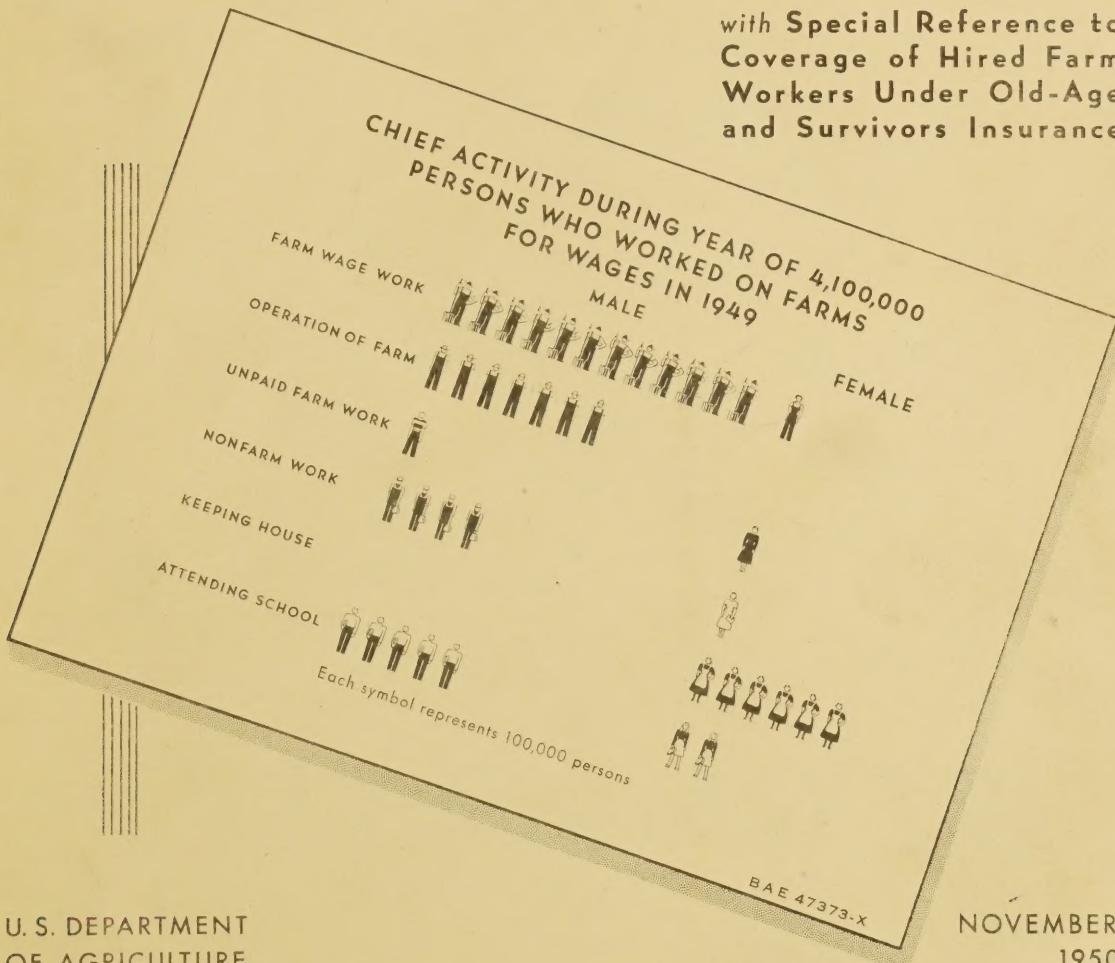


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The Hired FARM WORKING FORCE 1948 and 1949

with Special Reference to
Coverage of Hired Farm
Workers Under Old-Age
and Survivors Insurance



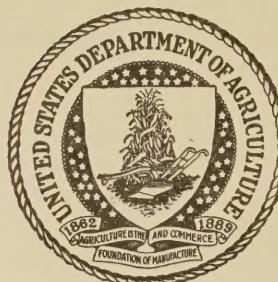
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This report is based on the results of two enumerative sample surveys made at the end of each of the years 1948 and 1949. Included in some of the tables of the report are comparable data from similar surveys made at the end of 1945 and 1947. The information was obtained from the individual workers, or someone in their households, for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the Bureau of the Census to supplement the information on wages and wage rates which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects from farmers.

Carl C. Taylor contributed to the formulation of the objectives of this study, which was carried out under his general direction. Raymond C. Smith also advised in its planning.

THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE - 1948 AND 1949

With Special Reference to Coverage of Hired Farm Workers
Under Old-Age and Survivors Insurance

By Gladys K. Bowles, Louis J. Ducoff, and Margaret Jarman Tagood

SUMMARY

Findings on the hired farm working force of 1948 and 1949. - The total number of persons who worked on farms for wages in 1949 reached almost 5.1 million, approximately 12 percent more than in 1948 when the total number was about 4.5 million. Information as to the number of farm wage workers and the amount of farm and nonfarm wage work they did in 1948 and 1949 was obtained from enumerative surveys made in December of each year. The 1948 survey also gathered data showing the farm wage work and nonfarm work done in each quarter of the year, and the 1949 survey obtained data as to annual wage earnings of the farm wage workers. In 1949, detailed information was obtained for 4.1 million of the 5.1 million total who worked at least some part of the year as hired workers on farms. In 1948, detailed information was obtained for 3.8 million of the 4.5 million total. ^{1/}

In total number, the hired farm working force was about a half million greater in 1949 than in 1948. Increases occurred among women and nonveteran men, mainly among males 18 to 34 years of age. The increase was wholly among seasonal farm workers who do not spend the major part of the year in farm wage work. The number of persons reporting some hired farm work but less than 150 days increased by 15 percent between 1948 and 1949.

Farm wage workers in 1949 differed somewhat from those of 1948 as to distribution according to the chief activity in which they engaged during the year. Fifty-four percent reported farm work as their chief pursuit in 1949. This included 17 percent who spent most of their time operating their own farms. In 1948, 60 percent reported farm work as their chief occupation, with approximately the same percentage having operation of their farm as chief occupation as in 1949. Of the remainder, nonfarm work was the chief activity of 12 percent in 1949 and 15 percent in 1948. The nongainful activities, such as attending school or keeping house, were the chief pursuits of a higher percentage in 1949 than in 1948, 34 compared with 25.

^{1/} The surveys obtained detailed information for persons 14 years old and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in December of each year who did some farm work for cash wages. Groups not covered in the surveys included children under 14 years old, persons who entered the armed forces during the year, persons who died during the year, persons in institutions, and some of the domestic and foreign migratory workers. Table 28 of the Appendix indicates the size of these various groups.



About a third of the farm wage workers in each year had also done nonfarm work at some time in the year. The number of workers involved in the farm-nonfarm labor market who worked only for wages (no self-employment) was approximately 1 million each year. The average days of both types of work for these workers were lower in 1949 than in 1948. They averaged a total of 158 days of wage work in 1949, with 97 days of nonfarm wage work and 61 days of farm wage work. In 1948, they averaged 114 days of nonfarm wage work and 77 days of farm wage work. In comparison, the larger group of farm wage workers without nonfarm work or any type of self-employment averaged only 116 days of work in 1949 and 136 days in 1948.

The average cash wage income in 1949 for all persons who did any work on farms for wages was \$530. This average total cash wage was earned from an average of 90 days of farm wage work and 28 days of nonfarm work. Workers received an average of \$367 cash farm wages and \$163 cash nonfarm wages. The annual cash wage income for persons who reported farm wage work as their chief activity during the year averaged \$925. Those who reported that nonfarm work was their chief activity averaged somewhat higher, \$1,047.

Because of the seasonality of labor demands in agriculture, hired labor input is not distributed evenly over the year. In 1948, the third quarter had 31 percent of all the days of hired farm work for the year, the second and fourth quarters each had 26 percent, and the first only 17 percent. Only 27 percent of the farm wage workers reported doing hired farm work in all four quarters of the year.

The composition of the hired farm working force differed greatly by quarters. In the first quarter of the year, regular workers predominated. Of those who did hired farm work in the first quarter of 1948, 95 percent were male, 91 percent were 18 years of age or more, and 73 percent were farm residents. In more active quarters of the year, the proportion of females rose to 23 percent, of youths 14 to 17 years of age to 20 percent, and nonfarm residents to 35 percent. Of the farm wage workers in the first quarters of 1948, 77 percent reported that farm wage work was their chief activity in the year, but in the third quarter, July through September, the corresponding proportion was only 46.

Two-thirds of the 1948 farm wage workers had no nonfarm work in the year. Half of these workers did farm wage work in only one or two quarters of the year, while the other half reported farm wage work in three or four different calendar quarters.

About one and a quarter million workers did both farm wage work and nonfarm wage work in 1948 and 1949. A majority of these workers do not shift permanently from one type of work to the other. More often they supplement one type of seasonal or irregular employment with the other.

Coverage of hired farm workers under old-age and survivors insurance. - The nearly 600,000 farm wage workers who had 250 or more days of employment at farm wage work are a fair approximation to the group that would have been covered in 1949 by the new law extending Old-Age and Survivors Insurance to the more regularly employed hired farm workers had the law been in effect in that year. Not all the workers in this category would have been covered; some were able to get this much employment only by working on two or more different farms in the year or by working intermittently on the same farm. Also, some workers not in this group would have been covered. Under certain conditions of timing, workers with as little as 5 months continuous employment by one farmer would be covered. But these two causes of inaccuracy of the approximation would tend to offset each other. Probably the latter cause would involve more workers than the former. Therefore, the estimate of 571,000 persons with 250 days or more of farm wage work in the year has been rounded upward to 600,000 as an approximation to the number of regular hired farm workers that would have been covered in 1949 had the present provisions of the amended Social Security Act been in effect then. As minor shifts in employment practices can affect the qualifications of a worker for coverage, and as coverage may be influenced by other factors discussed on page 20 the effective coverage may turn out to be larger than this.

For information concerning time worked and earnings, however, the workers with 250 days or more of farm wage work in the year approximate the group that would have been covered closely enough to indicate the level of earnings of the hired farm laborers that will probably be affected by the new law.

Practically all of the farm laborers who would be covered by the new law are men whose chief activity during the year is farm wage work and who would not have been covered in the OASI program by nonfarm work. These men averaged 320 days of wage work during 1949 and received an average of nearly \$1,200 in cash wages. Only a negligible fraction of these earnings was from nonfarm work. They averaged higher annual cash wage earnings from farm work and more noncash income from housing and other perquisites furnished by their employing farmers than the less regularly employed workers, although they averaged lower cash earnings per day worked.

The farm laborers who would have been covered by the new law made up a little less than half of all workers who reported farm wage work as their chief activity in 1949. The latter group included 1.3 million workers. For this larger group, data are available by age of worker. More than a fourth were 45 years of age and older and therefore would have reason to be directly interested in retirement provisions. Nearly 100,000 were already past 65 years of age.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents an analysis of survey data on the hired farm working force of 1948 and 1949. The population characteristics of persons who worked for wages on farms, their varying degrees of participation in farm and nonfarm work, and their annual earnings are the primary types of information presented. Because of the current interest in the effect of extending Old-Age and Survivors Insurance to certain categories of hired farm workers through the recent amendment to the Social Security Act,^{2/} an effort is made to analyze the data so as to throw light on this matter.

Coverage of farm workers under new Social Security law.—The language of the new law relating to the coverage of agricultural laborers is complex.^{3/} The intent was to restrict coverage to the more regular workers and to leave out the seasonal or short-term workers. The whole reporting and tax-collecting program for Old-Age and Survivors Insurance is on a calendar-quarter basis for wage and salary workers and the insurance rights of beneficiaries under the program depend upon the number of "quarters of coverage" the worker has earned in "covered" employment. Each calendar quarter in which an employee is paid wages of \$50 or more in farm or nonfarm covered employment is a "quarter of coverage" for determining his insurance status under social security. The calendar quarters end on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.

Each quarter in which a hired farm employee under the program is paid cash wages of \$50 or more, the employer collects a small percentage of the worker's wages, contributes an equal amount himself as the employer and sends the money to the Collector of Internal Revenue, together with a report giving the worker's name, his social security number, and the amount of cash wages he has been paid in the quarter.

The new law states that a farm laborer must have an unbroken record of employment for a farmer for an entire calendar quarter before he begins to be regularly employed and covered by the insurance program. Then for the next quarter and those following he is covered if he works for the same farmer for as much as 60 days on a full-time basis in the quarter with cash wages of not less than \$50. Following a period of regular employment, he is covered in the first quarter in which he works less than 60 days if he receives at least \$50 cash wages. In this event he loses coverage for succeeding quarters until he has been continuously employed for an entire calendar quarter and then in the next quarter works for at least 60 days with at least \$50 cash wages.

^{2/} Public Law 734, 81st Congress, Second Session "Social Security Act Amendments of 1950."

^{3/} See the Appendix, page 43.

An illustration may help to clarify these complex provisions. Suppose Farmer Jones hired Worker Brown on March 1 as a regular hired hand at \$100 a month. Because the Social Security account is by calendar quarters, the time Brown works in March is the total for the first calendar quarter of the year, and so does not count in getting coverage established. During the second calendar quarter, April through June, Brown works continuously for Jones and this serves as a "qualifying" quarter after which he may be covered. During the third calendar quarter, July through September, Brown also works continuously for Jones and receives \$300 as cash wages. For that quarter he will have been working in covered employment and Jones must report this fact and must send in his payroll tax and a deduction from Brown's wages to the Collector of Internal Revenue. Brown continues to work for Jones through October, after which time Jones no longer needs a hired man as there is little work to be done on his farm during winter. However, Brown's employment for the month of October will be credited as work in covered employment for the fourth quarter of the year because his employment in the quarter immediately preceding was covered. Brown's record for the year in the Social Security Administration will show him credited with two quarters of covered employment during the calendar year. In the whole year, Farmer Jones employed Brown for 8 months and paid him \$800 in wages but Brown's wage credits toward Old-Age and Survivors Insurance are only \$400, the wages received during the third and fourth quarters. If Brown begins working for Jones in March of the next year, the whole qualifying process must start from scratch.

A farm wage worker who becomes insured under the provisions of the Social Security Act will be entitled to monthly retirement benefits of an amount varying with his average monthly wage. Wives and widows of fully insured hired farm workers also become entitled to monthly cash benefits at age 65. Widows may receive benefits earlier if they are caring for children under 18. Likewise there are cash benefits for children under 18 when the worker retires or dies.^{4/}

In view of the complexities of the law and the complexities of employment patterns of hired farm workers, it is clear that no exact estimates can be made of the number of farm workers that will be covered under Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Nevertheless, the survey data presented in this report probably afford the best basis available for identifying approximately the categories of hired farm workers that would have been covered in 1949 if the new law had been in effect then. Information as to annual earnings, patterns of farm and nonfarm employment, and other characteristics of these workers is provided. Similarly, information is presented for other categories of hired farm workers, categories that would not have been covered under the new law.

^{4/} For a more detailed explanation of the provisions, including information as to the amounts of monthly benefits, see Altmeyer, Arthur J. The New Social Security Law. U. S. Bur. Agr. Econ., Agr. Situation, October 1950.

NUMBERS AND COMPOSITION OF
1949 AND 1948 FARM WAGE WORKERS

Five million persons did farm wage work in 1949. - The total number of persons who did farm wage work at some time during 1949 was approximately 5.1 million. This was about 12 percent more than the number in 1948, which was estimated at about 4.5 million. Practically all of the increase took place among very short-time seasonal workers with less than a month of employment at hired farm work during the year and among illegal entrants from Mexico. Information as to composition, time worked, chief activity, and earnings in 1949 is available for an estimated 4,140,000 farm wage workers who were 14 years of age or more and were in the civilian non-institutional population at the end of the year. In 1948, the group for which detailed information is available was nearly 3.8 million workers of an estimated total of 4.5 million.

Sample interview surveys were made of these workers in December of each year to obtain a record of their farm wage work and nonfarm work. In 1948, additional data were obtained on the work record for each quarter of the year. The data on the work record during the quarters of 1948 are included in the last two sections of this report. In 1949, data included information as to wages and also information that would identify migratory farm wage workers who leave their homes temporarily to cultivate or harvest crops in other than their home counties. The information relating to numbers, composition, and earnings of migratory farm workers has been published in a separate report. 5/

Larger number of females and men aged 18 to 34 among the 1949 farm wage workers. - Farm wage workers in 1949, who were about 12 percent greater in number than in the preceding year, differed somewhat in composition from the 1948 farm wage workers. The increases that took place were mainly among females and among men 18 to 34 years of age (tables 1 and 2). Veterans of World War II who did hired farm work remained about the same in number from 1947 to 1949. The number of veterans who did farm wage work in each of these years was around half a million, about 3 percent of the total number of veterans in the civilian population.

Resident composition of 1949 and 1948 farm wage workers similar. - Two-thirds of the persons who did farm wage work during each of the years 1948 and 1949 lived in rural-farm areas at the time of the surveys (table 3). Workers who lived in rural areas but not on farms made up about a fifth of the total number of farm wage workers in each year and, at the time the surveys were made, the remainder were living in cities.

Short-time workers increase in 1949. - A striking difference between the hired farm working force of 1948 and that of 1949 was the number of persons working for very short periods. In 1949, workers with less than 25 days of hired farm work totaled 1,630,000, about 400,000 more than the workers with this number of days of hired farm work in the 3 years immediately preceding (table 4).

5/ Ducoff, Louis J. Migratory Farm Workers in 1949. U. S. Dept. Agr. Inform. Bul. 25, 1950, 20 pp.

Table 1.- Sex and veteran status of farm wage workers, United States, 1945 and 1947-49 1/

Sex and veteran status	1945	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
All farm wage workers	3,212	3,394	3,752	4,140
Male	2,375	2,587	2,820	3,021
Veterans (World War II)	157	498	474	489
Nonveterans	2,218	2,089	2,346	2,532
Female	837	807	932	1,119
Percentage of total				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All farm wage workers	100	100	100	100
Male	74	76	75	73
Veterans (World War II)	5	15	13	12
Nonveterans	69	61	62	61
Female	26	24	25	27

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the surveys. For description of the surveys and estimates of the size of the excluded groups, see the Appendix.

Table 2.- Age distribution of male farm wage workers, United States, 1945 and 1947-49

Age	1945	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Male farm wage workers	2,375	2,587	2,820	3,021
14 - 17 years	463	495	549	606
18 - 34	750	1,076	1,062	1,200
35 - 64	980	869	1,020	1,064
65 and over	182	147	189	151
Percentage of total				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Male farm wage workers	100	100	100	100
14 - 17 years	19	19	19	20
18 - 34	32	42	38	40
35 - 64	41	33	36	35
65 and over	8	6	7	5

See footnote to table 1.

Table 3.- Residence of farm wage workers,
United States, 1945 and 1947-49

Residence	1945	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
All farm wage workers	3,212	3,394	3,752	4,140
Rural-farm	2,228	2,262	2,407	2,694
Rural-nonfarm	623	743	777	874
Urban	361	389	568	572
Percentage of total				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All farm wage workers	100	100	100	100
Rural-farm	69	67	64	65
Rural-nonfarm	20	22	21	21
Urban	11	11	15	14

See footnote to table 1.

Table 4.- Days of farm wage work for workers,
United States, 1945 and 1947-49

Days of farm wage work	1945	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
All farm wage workers	3,212	3,394	3,752	4,140
Under 25 days	1,247	1,179	1,250	1,630
25 - 74	825	771	904	1,017
75 - 149	339	411	597	526
150 - 249	262	418	381	396
250 and over	539	615	620	571
Percentage of total				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All farm wage workers	100	100	100	100
Under 25 days	38	35	33	39
25 - 74	26	23	24	24
75 - 149	11	12	16	13
150 - 249	8	12	10	10
250 and over	17	18	17	14

See footnote to table 1.

Several factors that may have led to the increase in 1949 of very short-time seasonal farm wage workers may be identified although their relative importance cannot be assessed quantitatively. The slight recession that occurred in 1949 and the concomitant rise in unemployment undoubtedly increased the labor supply available for farm wage work in many areas. Where weather was favorable, farmers found it possible to use more laborers for shorter periods and thus to speed up the harvest. The fear of further declines in prices of certain farm commodities doubtless motivated many farmers to hire a greater number of workers for shorter periods so that the products could be sold as quickly as possible.

Although workers with less than 25 days of hired farm work in 1949 made up 39 percent of the total hired farm working force, they accounted for only 5 percent of the total days of hired farm work. There is a real question as to the need for a substantial portion of these very marginal workers in the hired farm working force. There is also a question as to the effect of the short-time employment of these workers on the amount of employment in a year that can be obtained by other workers who depend wholly or chiefly on farm wage work.

Little change in regular workers. - Of the 1949 farm wage workers surveyed, approximately one in seven reported 250 days or more of hired farm work in the year. Many of these workers were year-round employees, each of whom worked for only one farmer in the course of the year. This group approximates in size and composition the regular workers that would be covered under Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.^{6/} The number of workers with year-round or almost year-round employment at farm wage work increased somewhat after the end of the war, and has averaged about 600,000 in the succeeding years. A somewhat smaller group reported between 150 and 250 days of hired farm work in the year. The combined group of all workers with 150 days or more of hired farm work numbered around a million and constituted 24 percent of the hired farm working force. This fourth of the hired farm working force accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total days of hired farm work in 1949. In 1948, workers with 150 days or more of hired farm work made up 27 percent of the farm working force and had 70 percent of the total days of hired farm work.

^{6/} See p. 18 for a fuller discussion on the coverage of regular hired workers.

CHIEF ACTIVITY DURING YEAR OF FARM
WAGE WORKERS

Farm wage work chief activity of only a third of 1949 farm wage workers.- Of the 4,140,000 persons who did farm wage work at some time during 1949 and for whom detailed information is available, only 1.3 million, or 32 percent, reported that hired farm work was their chief activity during the year (tables 5 and 6). The 1.3 million workers who reported farm wage work as their chief activity during the calendar year

Table 5.- Distribution of farm wage workers by chief activity
during the year, United States, 1949

Chief activity of workers during year	:	Farm wage workers
	:	
	:	(Thousands)
All activities		4,140
Farm work		2,228
Farm wage work		1,326
Without nonfarm work		1,018
With nonfarm work		308
Operation of farm		683
Unpaid family work		219
Nonfarm work		512
Not in labor force		1,400
Keeping house		574
Attending school		680
Other		146

See footnote to table 1.

1949 include the approximately 600,000 who would have been covered by the new amendment to the Social Security Act. Available data as to age distribution of these workers provide some clue as to the way in which the group that would be covered differs from other farm wage workers. Their median age was 33 years compared with 29 years for less regularly employed workers. Twenty-six percent were 45 years of age or older and 6 percent were 65 years or older. Among the workers less regularly attached to the hired farm working force, smaller proportions were in these older age groups.

Table 6.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers and days of hired farm work by chief activity during the year, United States, 1947-49

Chief activity during year	Percentage of farm wage workers			Percentage of total days of farm wage work		
	1947	1948	1949	1947	1948	1949
All activities	100	100	100	100	100	100
Farm work	61	60	54	36	35	35
Farm wage work				37	77	75
Without nonfarm work				29	62	64
With nonfarm work				9	15	11
Operation of farm				16	5	5
Unpaid family work				7	3	2
Nonfarm work	14	15	22	5	6	5
Not in labor force	25	25	34	9	12	12
Keeping house	9	10	14	2	3	5
Attending school	12	13	16	4	5	5
Other	4	2	4	3	1	1

See footnote to table 1.

Of the workers who reported that farm wage work was their chief activity in 1949, nearly a fourth reported that in addition to their farm work they had done some nonfarm work. A large proportion of the farm wage workers who do nonfarm work live in nonfarm areas and supplement irregular or part-time nonfarm work with work on farms in times of peak labor demands.

Supplementary workers come from several sources. - When the hired farm working force is classified according to the chief activity of workers during the entire year, the sources of the short-time supplementary seasonal workers is apparent. The chief activities in 1949 of groups which supplemented the regular hired farm working force, ranked in order of their numerical importance, were as follows: operation of farm, attending school, keeping house, nonfarm work, unpaid family work on farm, and a small ~~miscellaneous~~ group. The proportions of the year's total hired farm workers in some of these groups in 1949 differed from the 1948 proportions.

The entire group whose chief activity during the year was something other than working increased from 940,000 in 1948 to 1,400,000 in 1949, an increase of about 50 percent. In general, these are the workers who were employed during the shorter periods of time.

A third of farm wage workers did three-fourths of days of work. - The group of workers whose chief activity during the year is hired farm work is the core of the hired farm working force. The importance of this group is evident when it is observed that the 32 percent of the hired farm workers who reported that farm wage work was their chief activity during 1949 did 75 percent of the days of hired farm work done in the year. Of the days of hired farm work done, 8 percent was done by the two groups who worked on their own farms the majority of the time in the year; 5 percent was done by those who did nonfarm work most of the time during 1949. The remaining 12 percent was done by the 34 percent of the farm wage workers who spent the major part of the year at something other than gainful pursuits. In 1949, the workers whose chief activity was keeping house or attending school played a larger role in agricultural production than in either of the two previous years for which comparable data are available.

Smaller percentage of 1949 workers in labor force in midwinter. - Classification of hired farm workers by their employment status in midwinter also indicates the groups from which supplementary hired workers are drawn in times of peak farm employment. During 1949, the regular farm working force was supplemented by larger numbers of persons whose employment status in midwinter was keeping house and attending school than in 1948. In December 1949, 72 percent of the workers were in the labor force and 28 percent were outside the labor force (table 7). Among the three groups classified as in the labor force, those employed in agriculture in midwinter 1949 comprised 49 percent of the total and 17 percent were employed at nonfarm work. About 3 percent of the persons who had done hired farm work in 1949 were unemployed in December.

Table 7.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers by their employment status in midwinter, United States, 1945 and 1947-49

Employment status 1/	1945	1947	1948	1949
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All farm wage workers	100	100	100	100
In the labor force	71	74	77	72
Employed in agriculture	51	53	55	49
Employed in nonagriculture	18	17	18	17
Unemployed	2	4	4	6
Not in the labor force	29	26	23	28
Keeping house	12	12	9	13
In school	10	10	10	12
Other	7	4	4	3

See footnote to table 1.

1/ Classification relates to January 1946 for 1945 workers and to December of each of the other years.

TIME WORKED BY FARM WAGE WORKERS, 1949 AND 1948

Workers averaged 90 days of farm wage work in 1949.- The entire group of farm wage workers for whom data as to time spent at work is available averaged 90 days of farm wage work in 1949 (table 8). This is a smaller number of days than the 104 averaged in 1948. For the 1.3 million workers who reported farm wage work as their chief activity in 1949, the average number of days worked at farm wage work in the year was 211. These workers also had an average of 14 days of nonfarm wage work, making a total of 225 days of work during the year. (This total does not include a small average number of days spent by a part of this group in operating a farm, at unpaid family work on farms, or in operating a nonfarm business or profession.)

1949 supplementary groups averaged under 40 days of farm wage work.- For each of the groups other than those with farm wage work as their chief activity during the year, the average number of days of hired farm work done in 1949 was between 29 and 36. The supplementary workers averaged less than 2 weeks of nonfarm work in the year, with the exception of those who reported nonfarm work as their chief occupation during the year. A half million persons among the 1949 farm wage workers had nonfarm work as their chief occupation during the year. In 1949, the farm wage workers with nonfarm work as their chief activity averaged 146 days of nonfarm wage work and 36 days of farm wage work during the year. Their total of 182 days of work in the year was considerably less than the corresponding average of 225 days for those who reported farm wage work as their chief occupation.

Table 8.- Average time worked at farm and nonfarm work for farm wage workers by chief activity during the year, United States, 1947-49

Chief activity	Average days worked									
	Both types		Farm wage work			Nonfarm work				
	1947	1948	1949	1947	1948	1949	1947	1948	1948	1949
All activities	139	140	118	106	104	90	33	36	28	
Farm work	162	162	150	151	149	138	11	13	12	
Farm wage work	234	225	38	218	211	29	16	16	14	
Operation of farm	39	41	57	32	47	36	7	7	9	
Unpaid family work	57						10	10	5	
Nonfarm work	194	207	182	36	44	36	158	163	146	
Not in labor force	53	48	43	36	36	33	17	12	10	
Keeping house	40	42	38	28	30	32	12	12	6	
Attending school	60	52	45	38	40	33	22	12	12	

See footnote to table 1.

^{1/} For 1947 and 1949 these data relate to workers classified according to whether they reported nonfarm wage work; in 1948, they relate to any type of nonfarm work, including both nonfarm wage work and operation of a nonfarm business or profession.

A majority of those workers who had nonfarm work as their major activity in 1949 were probably covered for at least a part of the year under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance provisions before the 1950 Amendment. An additional number would have been covered by the new law, which broadens coverage to some of the types of nonfarm work in which they engaged. However, practically none of these would have qualified for coverage under the new provisions relating to agricultural laborers, as only about 1 percent had as much as 150 days of farm wage work during 1949.

Average days lower or about the same in 1949 and 1948 for various groups of workers. - Average days of farm work and nonfarm work in 1949 were lower or remained about the same as for 1948 for each of the groups of workers classified according to their chief activity. For all persons doing farm wage work in the year, average days of both types of work combined decreased from 140 in 1948 to 118 in 1949. A part of this decrease is because in 1949 farm wage workers reported on days spent doing nonfarm wage work only, while in 1948 they reported, in addition, days spent at nonfarm wage work and days spent in operation of a nonfarm business or profession. ^{7/}

EARNINGS OF FARM WAGE WORKERS, 1949

Farm wage workers averaged \$530 for 1949 wage work. - In 1949, persons who reported doing some farm wage work earned an average of \$530 cash wages (table 9). This was earned from an average of 90 days of farm wage work and 28 days of nonfarm wage work. Average daily cash wages were \$4.10 for farm wage work and \$5.85 per day for nonfarm wage work. The average cash wage income from farm and nonfarm work during 1949 for farm wage workers was somewhat lower than farm wage workers earned in 1947. (Data are not available as to wages earned in 1948.) In the earlier year workers averaged \$583. This lower average was entirely due to the smaller average number of days worked in 1949, as the average amount earned per day was higher in 1949 than in 1947 for both types of work. In 1947, hired farm workers earned an average of \$3.85 per day for their farm work and \$5.25 a day for their nonfarm work. They did an average of 106 days of farm wage work and 33 days of nonfarm wage work.

7/ From data on number of days worked at each type of work reported for the years 1947, 1948, and 1949, it is estimated that if the 1949 hired farm workers had also reported on days spent in the operation of a nonfarm business or profession, their average days of work done in the year would be raised by about 4, or from 118 to about 122 days. However, the major part of the difference is caused by the large increase in workers reporting very few days of work. In 1949, the total number of days worked at farm wage work was estimated to be 372,000,000. This was about 20,000,000 smaller than the number of days of farm wage work reported in 1948 by a farm working force 12 percent smaller. (The somewhat higher number of days reported in 1948 may be partly due to the way in which data were reported. In 1948, the work record was obtained for each quarter of the year and some of the memory bias in reporting time worked probably was eliminated.) However, the BAE annual average employment of hired farm workers in 1949 was 2 percent under that in 1948.

Table 9.- Average time worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm work for farm wage workers by chief activity during year, United States, 1949

Chief activity	Wage Work						Nonfarm		
	Total			Farm			Aver-	Aver-	Cash earned
	Aver-	Cash earned	Aver-	Cash earned	age	age			
days	days	days	days	days	days	days	of	of	Per
of	1949	Per	1949	Per	1949	1949	work	work	day
work	work	day	work	day	work	work	worked	worked	day
All activities	118	530	4.50	90	367	4.10	28	163	5.85
Farm work	150	648	4.30	138	566	4.10	12	82	7.05
Farm wage work	225	925	4.10	211	824	3.90	14	101	7.25
Operation of farm	38	276	7.15	29	210	7.20	9	66	7.00
Unpaid family work	41	135	3.30	36	112	3.10	5	23	4.40
Nonfarm work	182	1,047	5.75	36	181	5.00	146	866	5.90
Not in labor force	43	152	3.60	33	118	3.65	10	34	3.35
Keeping house	38	116	3.10	32	104	3.25	6	12	2.20
Attending school	45	161	3.60	33	120	3.70	12	41	3.35

See footnote to table 1.

Wide variation in earnings among various groups of farm wage workers. - In both 1949 and 1947, average cash wages earned differed greatly for the groups of workers classified according to their chief activity during the year. In both years the highest wage income was earned by workers whose chief activity was nonfarm work. The next highest annual average cash wage income in 1949 was received by the workers who reported that farm labor was their chief occupation. They averaged \$925 in cash wages for 225 days of wage work in the year. Of these total cash wages, about 11 percent came from nonfarm work. 8/

On the average, persons with farm wage work as their chief occupation receive lower daily cash farm wages than those in other gainful occupations. In general, these are the workers who received in addition to their cash remuneration, a value of perquisites higher than that received by other types of workers. In a study made in 1945, the average value of perquisites furnished regular hired workers was equal to about 30 percent of their cash wages for workers who work regularly on a farm. 9/ If an allowance for the value of perquisites furnished without cash or charge by farm operators is made on the same basis as in 1945, the annual earnings of the group with farm wage work as their chief activity during 1949 would be raised to approximately \$1,200.

Farm operators who also did farm wage work averaged slightly less than 40 days of wage work in 1949, with an average of only 9 days spent at nonfarm wage work. From this wage work they earned an average of \$276 to add to their income from farming.

As was true in 1947, in 1949 the other groups that supplement the regular farm working force -- those whose chief activity during the year is noneconomic -- earned the lowest daily wages. Because they worked a smaller number of days during the year, they earned low total amounts from their farm and nonfarm work. Farm wage workers who reported that keeping house was their chief activity in 1949 received an average of \$116 from wages in

3/ Data are not available to allow comparison of averages for 1947 and 1949 of wages earned and time worked for persons whose chief activity during the year was farm wage work. In 1947, persons whose chief activity was unpaid work on the family farm were included with those whose chief activity was farm wage work. In 1949, these workers were placed in a separate group. Although the 1947 group with unpaid family work is relatively small, its inclusion with the other group tends to lower the averages of wages earned and days worked. In 1949, the group with unpaid family work as their chief occupation earned only \$135 for farm and nonfarm cash work during the year.

9/ See Report No. 18 in the Series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1946, p. 9. See also Ducoff, Louis J. and Hagood, Margaret Jarman, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1947, Bur. Agr. Econ. 1948, p. 8.

the year. About 90 percent of these wages was from farm work. Young people whose chief activity was attending school earned somewhat more from their wage work than did housewives, or \$161. They earned more on the average from both farm and nonfarm work than did housewives. These young people are generally more free to take farm or nonfarm jobs for short periods, for example during their summer vacations from school, than are the housewives who may have children to care for.

Earnings of regular workers in relation to Social Security coverage. In various farm wage surveys made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in which information is obtained from the employing farmer, the farmer reported on past and expected duration of employment of each hired worker presently working on his farm. On the basis of this information, workers were classified by duration of employment on the reporting farm. Those who were to be employed for 150 or more days -- about 6 months -- are identified as regular workers in the series of publications resulting from these surveys, and among these, those with 250 or more days of employment in one year on the same farm have been considered as year-round workers. The latter category varies less in size and in identity of workers in different seasons of the year than do other categories of hired farm workers. Bureau of Agricultural Economics surveys in recent years have shown the number of year-round workers to range from 500,000 to 600,000.^{10/}

In the survey of households which forms the basis of this report, information was obtained as to the duration of farm wage employment in the year but not as to the duration of work for different employers if a person worked on more than one farm. However, most of the workers who report 250 days or more of farm wage work are employed by only one farmer.^{11/}

Farm wage workers with 250 days or more of farm wage work during the year approximate the group to be covered by Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Therefore, especial interest attaches to the employment and earnings of this group as compared with those of other regular but less than year-round workers and of seasonal workers - those with less than 150 days of employment in the year.

Year-round workers averaged 320 days of employment and approximately \$1,200 in cash wages during 1949, with only a negligible amount from non-farm work (table 10). The group includes few of the workers referred to earlier as in the farm-nonfarm labor market; only 4 percent had any non-farm work in the year. This means, then, that the expansion of coverage of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance to farm laborers, will bring an essentially new group of workers into the program, as almost none would be covered by virtue of having nonfarm jobs in the year. Some of the newly covered workers will have had previous experience in covered employment in earlier years, but very few will get wage credits for nonfarm work in the same year they get them from working as agricultural laborers.

^{10/} United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 1945-1950 [Processed.]

^{11/} Ducoff, Louis J. and Hagood, Margaret Jarman, Employment and Wages of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1945, Bur. Agr. Econ., June 1946, p. 7.

Table 10.- Average time worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm work for farm wage workers by sex and duration of farm wage work, United States, 1949

Sex and duration of farm wage work	Number of farm wage workers	Wage work						Nonfarm								
		Total			Farm			Aver- age age			Cash earned			Aver- age age		
		of days	days of work	Per day	of days	days of work	Per day	of days	days of work	Per day	of days	days of work	Per day	of days	days of work	Per day
All farm wage workers	4,140	118	530	4.50	90	367	4.10	28	163	5.85	10	104	5.85	10	104	6.45
Under 150 days	3,173	71	362	5.10	36	155	4.35	35	207	5.85	10	13	8.15	10	13	10
150 - 249	395	207	897	4.35	191	793	4.15	16	104	6.45	10	104	6.45	10	104	6.45
250 and over	571	320	1,195	3.75	313	1,132	3.70	2	13	8.15	10	13	8.15	10	13	10
Male	3,021	140	659	4.70	108	445	4.15	32	213	6.65	10	104	6.65	10	104	6.65
Under 150 days	2,124	81	464	5.70	39	184	4.75	42	280	6.60	10	118	6.75	10	118	6.75
150 - 249	338	211	979	4.65	194	661	4.45	17	118	6.75	10	118	6.75	10	118	6.75
250 and over	559	320	1,207	3.75	313	1,193	3.75	2	14	8.15	10	14	8.15	10	14	10
Female	1,119	59	173	2.90	39	117	2.95	20	56	2.30	10	10	2.30	10	10	10
Under 150 days	1,049	51	156	3.10	30	97	3.30	21	59	2.80	10	10	2.80	10	10	10
150 - 249	50	173	367	2.05	171	354	2.05	7	13	1.30	10	13	1.30	10	13	10

See footnote to table 1.

If each of the estimated 600,000 workers to be covered worked continuously for one farm operator throughout a year following a qualifying quarter of continuous employment, the average annual tax per worker that farmers would pay through 1953 would be about \$18 and a similar amount would be deducted from the worker's wages. Actually the amounts paid will vary from much less than \$18 to a somewhat higher figure for year-round workers paid the highest rates. And for those workers who are not employed continuously throughout the year, the average payment will be substantially less. For a worker employed only 5 months by one farmer -- the minimum time to entitle him to coverage -- the payments would be made only for one quarter and would average about \$4 tax for the farmer and \$4 deduction for the worker at the 1949 wage levels.

Factors affecting coverage of farm workers under Social Security. Among the regular workers with between 150 and 250 days of farm wage work in the year, a certain portion may be covered. These workers average slightly more than 7 months of farm wage work during the year. The extent to which these less than year-round workers will be covered will probably be affected by the general manpower situation. If under further mobilization, the farm labor supply is diminished and farmers are motivated to offer special inducements to retain their regular workers, some may find it advantageous to report such workers as regularly employed and pay the tax, even though under the law they would not be required to do so.

Under the present law, coverage of a substantial number of farm laborers will, in effect, be on something approaching a voluntary basis. Because of the semi-voluntary nature of compliance in the case of a large group of workers, the number of agricultural laborers that will be covered in 1951 or subsequent years cannot be estimated with any degree of precision. For many of the group working 150 to 250 days in the year, nearly 400,000, minor shifts in employment practices may mean that a worker is or is not covered. Ignorance of the law and its potential benefits on the part of hired farm workers may be expected to become less in time so that more of them will take steps to obtain a record of coverage when they actually qualify for it. Farmers, also, may come to treat the pay-roll tax for Old-Age and Survivors Insurance as in the nature of a perquisite or extra inducement to be provided regular hired workers in addition to cash wages. They may also come to regard Social Security coverage for their hired workers as a means of lessening their competitive disadvantage with non-farm employers offering jobs covered by Social Security.

DISTRIBUTION OF 1949 FARM WAGE WORKERS BY WAGE INCOME

Large proportion of farm wage workers have low annual income. In 1945, 1947, and 1949, information was obtained as to the amount of cash wages earned from farm and nonfarm work for all persons who reported that they did some farm wage work in the year. Many persons reporting farm wage work at some time during the year have very small annual wage incomes because of the short time they are in the labor force. Between 1947 and 1949,

the number of farm wage workers who reported that they did some farm-wage work in the year but less than 25 days increased by slightly more than 13 percent. Most of these workers and some of those in the group working 25 to 74 days in the year earned less than \$100 from their work. In 1947, 36 percent of the farm wage workers earned less than \$100 from farm work, while in 1949, 42 percent earned less than this amount (table 11). In 1949, the percentage earning between \$100 and \$200 was approximately the same as that in 1947, or 16. The percentages of workers earning more than \$1,000 in the year were about the same in the 2 years. The percentages in the intermediate groups, those earning between \$200 and \$1,000, were 36 in 1947 and 30 in 1949.

In general, smaller percentages of males than females earn the lower cash wages during the year, as they are likely to spend a greater proportion of their time engaged in farm work. Very few of the females reported earning more than \$400 from farm work during the year, and more than 60 percent earned less than \$200.

Total wage income for full-time workers increased in 1949. - Table 12 presents the total wage income (farm plus nonfarm wage income) distributions for all male farm wage workers by specified classifications. Information as to the income distribution of those workers who spent most of their time at farm or nonfarm work is somewhat more significant than are the distributions which include all workers. Especially for 1949, when such a large proportion worked only very short periods, is it necessary to consider the income distributions of the more nearly full-time workers.

In 1949, as in 1947, the proportions of males with farm or nonfarm work as their chief activity during the year in the lower income classes were much smaller than the proportions in these classes when total males are considered. In 1949, 59 percent of the total male workers who did some farm work for wages during the year were in the income classes below \$600. For males with farm wage work as their chief activity, only 32 percent earned below \$600 total wage income during 1949. Of those males with nonfarm work as their chief activity, 28 percent reported earning less than \$600.

Sharp decreases occurred from 1947 to 1949 in the percentage of males with farm wage work as their chief activity who reported that they earned less than \$600. In the earlier period, 41 percent earned less than this amount while in 1949, 32 percent earned less than \$600. Both groups of workers with farm labor as their chief activity, those who did farm work only and those who did nonfarm work in addition to their farm work, showed decreases in the percentages of workers who earned the lower amounts and corresponding increases in those who earned the higher amounts during the year 1949 as compared with 1947.

Table II.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers by cash wages earned at farm work during year, by sex, United States, 1945, 1947, and 1949

Cash wages	All farm wage workers		Male		Female	
	1945	1947	1945	1947	1945	1947
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 25 dollars	18	14	15	14	10	28
25 - 99	30	22	27	26	24	35
100 - 199	15	15	16	13	15	17
200 - 399	13	16	13	16	17	13
400 - 599	7	8	9	8	10	5
600 - 999	10	12	8	13	11	3
1,000 - 1,399	4	7	5	9	10	1
1,400 - 1,999	2	4	3	6	4	2
2,000 and over	1	2	2	2	3	---

See footnote to table I.

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 12.- Distribution of male farm wage workers by total cash wages earned, selected groups of workers, United States, 1949

		Male workers reporting work as chief activity			
		Farm wage work		Nonfarm work	
Total wage income	Total male farm wage workers	Total	Reporting farm work only	Reporting farm and nonfarm work	Nonfarm work
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Under 25 dollars					
25 - 99	6	1	1	1	4
100 - 199	16	2	2	1	4
200 - 399	13	6	7	2	5
400 - 599	13	10	10	11	9
600 - 999	11	13	13	14	10
1,000 - 1,399	14	23	23	25	21
1,400 - 1,999	13	24	25	22	19
2,000 and over	8	14	12	19	15
	6	7	7	7	17

See footnote to table 1.

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From 1947 to 1949, the index of farm wage rates as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics increased from 424 to 429. However, during this period rural living costs increased so that the index of real farm wage rates showed a slight decrease, from 179 to 177. The somewhat higher income from wage work during 1949 for those who worked regularly meant that a worker was able to buy only about the same or somewhat less in 1949 than he could buy in 1947.

NUMBERS, COMPOSITION, AND TIME WORKED BY
FARM WAGE WORKERS, EACH QUARTER OF
1948

Numbers of workers lowest in first quarter, highest in third. - In the first quarter of 1948, the hired farm working force included only 1,244,000 persons. The number doing hired farm work at some time during the July-September quarter was more than twice as large, or 2,812,000 (table 13). Persons working at some time in the fourth quarter numbered about 2.5 million and those at work in the second quarter 2.2 million.

Supplementary workers change composition of hired farm working force in various quarters. Persons who come into the hired farm working force during the more active parts of the year to supplement the work of the regular hired workers differ in composition from the regular workers. Thus, the number of workers of one type in any one quarter varies from that in other quarters and the composition in any specified quarter may differ markedly from that for the year as a whole. Women and girls more than 14 years of age made up only 5 percent of the farm wage workers in the first quarter of 1948 (table 14). Of the entire number of persons who did farm wage work at any time during the year, women and girls constituted 25 percent.

Workers living on farms at the end of the year in which the survey was made dropped from 73 percent in the first quarter to 54 percent for the entire year. Young people 14 to 17 years of age were 9 percent of the farm working force in the first quarter, but for the entire year they made up 19 percent of the total number of persons who did some farm wage work.

A fifth of the net increase of 1,568,000 in the hired farm working force between the first and third quarters of the year was made up of persons whose chief activity in the year was hired farm work. About 600,000 were housewives, youths, and others whose chief activity in the year was a nongainful pursuit. Persons whose chief activity was operation of a farm or unpaid work on the family farm numbered 400,000. The remaining 200,000 were persons who did nonfarm work the major part of the year.

Table 13.- Distribution of hired farm working force by chief activity during the year, United States, by quarters, 1948

Chief activity	1948	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
All activities	3,752	1,244	2,227	2,812	2,516
Farm work	2,230	1,124	1,671	1,850	1,756
Farm wage work	1,384	957	1,245	1,282	1,237
Operation of farm	584	133	280	379	337
Unpaid family work	262	34	146	189	182
Nonfarm work	580	86	208	320	313
Not in labor force	942	34	348	642	447
Keeping house	381	5	127	215	219
Attending school	473	24	189	374	159
Other	88	5	32	53	69

	Percentage distribution				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All activities	100	100	100	100	100
Farm work	60	90	75	56	70
Farm wage work	37	77	56	46	49
Operation of farm	16	10	13	13	14
Unpaid family work	7	3	6	7	7
Nonfarm work	15	7	9	11	12
Not in labor force	25	3	16	23	18
Keeping house	10	1/	6	8	9
Attending school	13	2	9	13	6
Other	2	1/	1	2	3

See footnote to table 1.

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Workers with farm wage work as their chief activity in the year constituted 77 percent of the hired farm working force in the first quarter of 1948. These workers increased by about a third in numbers between the first and second quarters and remained at approximately the same level in each of the last three quarters. The relative importance of this group to the total number of persons working in each quarter, however, declined. In the third quarter, the proportion of workers whose chief activity in the year was hired farm work dropped to 46 percent.

Workers who report farm wage work as their chief activity tend to work in successive quarters of the year to a greater extent than do other types of workers, especially those whose chief activity in the year was something other than gainful work. Thus, workers with farm wage work as chief activity made up a lower proportion of the hired farm working force for the entire year 1948 than for any single quarter -- 37 percent.

Substantial numbers of very short-time workers are found among hired farm workers in each quarter of the year after the first. Many who work in one of the three active quarters, however, do not work in any other quarter. This results in a hired farm working force much larger in number, when counted on a yearly basis, than is reported in surveys that relate to persons working in a given week.

The types of worker counts presented in this report -- those doing hired farm work at some time during a calendar quarter or during a calendar year -- are appropriate when the chief focus of interest is in the total number of different individuals who work as hired farm laborers in a specified period of time. These counts are invariably higher than conventional employment statistics that relate to the number of workers employed in a specified week or pay-roll period, except in the case of categories of workers who are continuously employed throughout the entire period.

For workers employed continuously throughout the year, the any-time-of-year count is the same as the count for any quarter or any given week in the year. Therefore, for the main groups that would have been covered under the present Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program in 1949, the estimate on an any-time-of-year basis would correspond closely with the estimate for an average week basis. For regular but less than full-time workers, however, the number covered in an average week or a given quarter would be less than the number covered at any time of the year. Partly because of its relevance to the quarterly basis of reporting used by the Social Security Administration, considerable data on the quarterly basis are presented in this and the concluding section.

A third of farm wage workers also did nonfarm work in 1948.- Part of the farm wage workers in each quarter of 1948 also did nonfarm work at some time during the year. For the entire year, a third of the farm wage workers reported that they did some nonfarm work in addition to their farm wage work. (Greater detail as to the patterns of farm and nonfarm work of hired workers appears in the section that follows.) About a fifth of the hired farm workers who did nonfarm work in each quarter of 1948 were females (table 15).

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers by selected characteristics, United States, by quarters, 1948

Characteristics	1948	First	Second	Third	Fourth
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Sex					
Male	75	95	81	79	77
Female	25	5	19	21	23
Age					
14 - 17 years	19	9	16	20	14
18 - 34	37	44	39	37	38
35 - 64	38	42	38	37	41
65 and over	6	5	7	6	7
Residence					
Rural-farm	64	73	69	65	68
Rural-nonfarm	21	16	18	21	19
Urban	15	11	13	14	13

See footnote to table 1.

Table 15.- Distribution of farm wage workers reporting some nonfarm work during year, by sex and age, United States, by quarters, 1948

Sex and age	1948	First	Second	Third	Fourth
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
All farm wage workers with nonfarm work					
		1,254	292	634	839
Percentage distribution					
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All farm wage workers with nonfarm work					
		100	100	100	100
Sex					
Male		81	79	79	81
Female		19	21	21	19
Age					
14 - 17 years		15	7	10	13
18 - 34		45	47	46	48
35 - 64		36	42	39	34
65 and over		4	4	5	5

See footnote to table 1.

Among those doing nonfarm work, the proportion in the 14 to 17 year age group increased from 7 in the first quarter to 15 in the fourth quarter. Those in the 18 to 34 age group maintained a fairly stable proportion (nearly half of the workers in each quarter) whereas the relative position of the age groups 35 to 64 decreased in the first three successive quarters of the year. In the fourth quarter, when the total number at work is lower, this age group had a just slightly higher proportion of the workers than in the previous quarter.

Among males 14 to 34 years old who do nonfarm work in addition to their farm wage work, the smallest percentage did some nonfarm work in the first quarter (table 16). Increasing percentages did nonfarm work in each successive quarter with the highest percentage doing nonfarm work in the fourth quarter. More of the males aged 35 to 64 did nonfarm work in the fourth quarter than in any other, but among workers in this age group the next highest percentage worked in the first quarter. The largest number of the older men, those aged 65 years and more worked at nonfarm work in the thired quarter. Among female hired farm workers doing nonfarm work, the pattern for the age groups was quite irregular.

Table 16.- Percentage of farm wage workers reporting some nonfarm work during year, by sex and age for males, United States, by quarters, 1948

Sex and age	:	:	:	:	:
	:	First	Second	Third	Fourth
	: 1948	: quarter	: quarter	: quarter	: quarter
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Male	100	53	53	67	74
14 - 17 years	100	20	34	59	72
18 - 34	100	56	57	70	76
35 - 64	100	64	55	62	72
65 and over	100	51	62	87	59
Female	100	63	62	66	65

See footnote to table 1.

Man-days of labor input lowest in first quarter, highest in third.- Employment statistics are often used as an indicator (not a precise measure) of labor requirements and labor input. In table 17, the last column shows the estimated quarterly distribution of man-days of hired farm work as derived from the 1948 special farm wage worker survey. Of the total man-days of farm wage work, 17 percent was done in the first quarter by the 1,244,000 workers at work during that period. Thirty percent of the man-days of work was done during the third quarter.

Table 17.- Indications of seasonal distribution of hired labor input from three types of data, United States, by quarters, 1948

Period	Hired labor input based on		
	Bureau of Agricultural Economics hired farm employment ^{1/}	Census Bureau agricultural employment - wage workers ^{2/}	1948 farm wage worker survey - man-days of wage work ^{3/}
	Percent	Percent	Percent
1948	100.0	100.0	100.0
First quarter	14.0	21.1	17.4
Second quarter	25.7	25.0	26.2
Third quarter	39.6	29.3	30.6
Fourth quarter	20.7	24.6	25.8

^{1/} Computed from United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Farm Labor, February 1950.

^{2/} Computed from United States Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-57, No. 78, Monthly Report on the Labor Force: December 1948, January 1949.

^{3/} See footnote to table 1.

For comparison, indications of the distributions derived from the official employment series of the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are presented. In the first and third quarters, the proportion of the hired farm work computed from the special survey is intermediate between the proportions computed from the two employment series. In the other two quarters, the percentages derived from the 1948 survey are slightly higher than those derived from the two employment series. The fact that the BAE series has a greater seasonal amplitude than the other two is due, at least in part, to the fact that children under 14 years of age are included.

Table 18 presents in greater detail the distribution of estimated man-days of both types of work done in each quarter by male and female farm wage workers. Only 5 percent of the days of hired farm work by females occurred in the first quarter, while 19 percent of the days for males was done in this period. For both males and females the largest percentages of man-days of work was done in the July to September harvest months. Nearly as large a percentage of the work done by females, however, was done in the last quarter. During the early part of this period, large numbers of women help with cotton picking.

The percentage of nonfarm work done in each quarter was stable. About a fourth of the days of nonfarm work done in the year by both males and females was done in each quarter.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of days of farm wage work and nonfarm work of farm wage workers, United States, by quarters, 1948

Type of work and sex of worker	Percentage distribution of days of work				
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
1948	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Farm wage and nonfarm work					
All farm wage workers	100	19	26	29	26
Male	100	20	26	29	25
Female	100	14	25	31	30
Farm wage work					
All farm wage workers	100	17	26	31	26
Male	100	19	26	30	25
Female	100	5	26	35	34
Nonfarm work					
All farm wage workers who did nonfarm work	100	26	23	25	26
Male	100	25	23	25	27
Female	100	29	25	23	23

See footnote to table 1.

Farm wage workers averaged 140 days of work in 1948.-On the average, farm wage workers worked a total of 140 days during the year 1948 - 104 days of farm wage work and 36 days of nonfarm work (table 19). Males worked an average of 164 days in the year and females 72 days. For both males and females, the highest average days occurred in the third quarter.

Male farm wage workers did an average of 124 days of farm wage work in 1948, with the lowest average number in the first quarter and the highest in the third quarter. Among the various age groups of males, the average number of days of each type of work done in each quarter varied considerably. Male workers in the age group 18 to 34, those who are more likely to be the regular, full-time workers, averaged 144 days of farm wage work in the year. The 35 to 64 year old males averaged about 7 percent fewer days. For all age groups of males, with the exception of those 65 years of age and more, the highest average days of farm wage work occurred in the third quarter.

Table 19.- Average number of days of farm wage work and nonfarm work for farm wage workers by sex and by age for males, United States, by quarters, 1948

Type of work, sex, and age of worker	Average days of work				
	1948	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
All farm wage workers					
Types of work	140	27	35	41	37
Farm wage work	104	18	27	32	27
Nonfarm work	36	9	8	9	10
Males					
Types of work	164	33	42	47	42
Farm wage work	124	23	33	37	31
14 - 17 years	75	9	19	31	16
18 - 34	144	29	38	41	36
35 - 64	134	27	35	38	34
65 and over	99	16	29	27	27
Nonfarm work	40	10	9	10	11
14 - 17 years	16	2	4	5	5
18 - 34	58	14	13	15	16
35 - 64	37	10	9	8	10
65 and over	23	6	6	7	4
Females					
Types of work	72	10	19	22	21
Farm wage work	45	2	12	16	15
Nonfarm work	27	8	7	6	6

See footnote to table 1.

When average days of farm and nonfarm work are computed for those doing work in a specified quarter, a somewhat different picture of the quarters in which the highest average days of work are done is obtained. For example, among males in the various age classifications in this type of analysis the highest average number of days of farm work are worked in the first quarter (table 20). For the age groups 13 to 34 and 35 to 64, nearly as high average days of farm wage work were done in the second as in the first quarter. Although the July-September period is the quarter of largest total days of hired labor input, the greater number of workers employed during this period lowers the average number of days worked per person.

Table 20.- Average days of farm wage work and nonfarm work in 1948 and in each quarter of 1948 for male farm wage workers working in specified period, by age, United States, by quarters 1948

Type of work and age of worker	Average days of work				
	First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter
	1948	Number	Number	Number	Number
Farm wage work					
All ages	124	55	51	47	45
14 - 17 years	75	46	34	38	31
18 - 34	144	58	57	52	52
35 - 64	134	55	53	50	45
65 and over	99	51	44	38	35
Nonfarm work					
All ages	109	51	47	41	40
14 - 17 years	59	43	37	32	27
18 - 34	126	56	50	46	45
35 - 64	107	45	47	38	39
65 and over	108	55	45	37	33

See footnote to table 1.

Males who did nonfarm work in addition to their farm wage work in 1948 averaged 109 days of nonfarm work. For all age groups, except the 35 to 64 year group, the highest average number of days of nonfarm work was done in the first quarter. For the 35 to 64 age group of males, the largest average number of days of nonfarm work was done in the second quarter, although nearly as high an average number of days was worked in the first quarter.

PATTERNS OF EMPLOYMENT OF 1948
FARM WAGE WORKERS

A fourth of the 1948 farm wage workers worked in all four quarters. Among the 3,752,000 workers represented in the 1948 sample survey, 1 million, or 27 percent, did farm wage work in each quarter of the year (table 21). Approximately 600,000 did farm wage work in only three quarters. Those doing work in only two quarters totaled almost 800,000 while those working in only one made up the largest group, 1,300,000.

Table 21.- Distribution of farm wage workers working specified quarters at farm wage work and nonfarm work, United States, 1948

Item	Farm wage workers with farm work				
	1948	One quarter	Two quarters	Three quarters	Four quarters
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
All farm wage workers	3,752	1,341	781	624	1,003
Percentage distribution					
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All farm wage workers	100	36	21	16	27
No nonfarm work	67	22	12	10	23
Some nonfarm work	33	14	9	6	4
1 quarter	10	4	2	3	1
2 quarters	7	3	2	1	1
3 quarters	6	2	2	1	1
4 quarters	10	5	3	1	1

See footnote to table 1.

Two-thirds of the hired farm workers in 1948 did no nonfarm work. Of those who did no nonfarm work, 35 percent worked at farm work in each quarter of the year. Of those reporting nonfarm work, the greater proportion did their farm work in either one or two quarters. Many of these work regularly at nonfarm occupations and supplement their nonfarm income by working a few weeks at farm work during peak periods of farm employment in the summer or fall.

A third of the male farm wage workers worked in all quarters; only 4 percent of the females.- Thirty-four percent of the male farm wage workers did farm wage work in each quarter of the year, and thirty-one percent worked in only one quarter (table 22). The pattern of employment among white and nonwhite males is similar. The largest proportions of each group worked in all quarters, the next largest in only one quarter, and the smallest proportion worked in three quarters of the year.

The pattern of employment for females is in striking contrast to that for males. Only 4 percent of the females worked at farm wage work in all quarters of 1948 and 51 percent worked in only one quarter. A higher proportion of white females worked in only one quarter than nonwhite females, 65 and 41, respectively. Another difference between white and nonwhite women is the proportions who did farm wage work in three quarters of the year. Twenty-six percent of the nonwhite females but only 9 percent of the white women worked in this many quarters of the year.

Table 22.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers working specified number of quarters at farm wage work, by color and sex, United States, 1948

Period	Total		White		Nonwhite	
	:		:		:	
	Male Percent	Female Percent	Male Percent	Female Percent	Male Percent	Female Percent
quarters, 1948	100	100	100	100	100	100
1	31	51	32	65	26	41
2	19	26	19	24	22	27
3	16	19	14	9	20	26
4	34	4	35	2	32	6

See footnote to table 1.

Work patterns show wide variation among workers classified by chief activity in 1948.- For those workers who reported that farm wage work was their chief activity in 1948, 63 percent said they did farm work in all quarters of the year (table 23). Twenty-one percent worked in three quarters and the remaining 16 percent in only one or two. Among workers who reported that operation of a farm was their chief activity in the year, only 11 percent reported working in all quarters. In contrast, 44 percent worked in only one.

The other groups that supplement the regular hired farm working force -- those with unpaid family work, nonfarm work, keeping house, attending school, or something else as their chief activity -- also worked most often in only one or two quarters of the year. In general, those who worked in one or two quarters were more likely to work in the third and fourth quarters.

Table 23.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers working specified quarters at farm wage work by chief activity during year, United States, 1948

Chief activity	Farm wage workers working in				
	One quarter		Two quarters		Three quarters
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All activities	100	36	21	16	27
Farm work	100	20	16	21	43
Farm wage work	100	6	10	21	63
Operation of farm	100	44	29	16	11
Unpaid family work	100	42	17	30	11
Nonfarm work	100	58	28	10	4
Not in labor force	100	59	28	11	2
Keeping house	100	60	31	8	1
Attending school	100	61	24	11	4
Other	100	48	27	22	3

See footnote to table 1.

Half million workers did both types of work in third and fourth quarters. The 1-1/4 million farm wage workers who also did nonfarm work in 1948 was made up of 81 percent males and 19 percent females. Among those who did nonfarm work, a higher percentage, 75, were white than among those who reported no nonfarm work, 65 percent. A much higher percentage of the farm wage workers without nonfarm work in 1948 lived in rural-farm areas in December 1948, when the survey was taken, than among those who did some nonfarm work during the year -- 75 percent compared with 40 percent.

In the first quarter of 1948, 854,000 of the 1-1/4 million workers who reported that they did both farm wage and nonfarm work sometime during 1948 were at work (table 24). Of this total number, 66 percent worked only at nonfarm work, 20 percent worked only at farm wage work, and the remainder did both types of work.

Table 24.- Farm wage workers reporting nonfarm work also, by pattern of employment, United States, 1948

Type of work	1948	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Farm wage work and nonfarm work	1,254	1,254	1,254	1,254	1,254
Total at work	1,254	854	1,059	1,187	1,148
Farm wage work	1,254	292	634	839	716
Without nonfarm work	--	167	374	352	244
With nonfarm work	1,254	125	260	487	472
Nonfarm work only	--	562	425	348	432
Without farm wage work or nonfarm work	--	400	195	67	106

See footnote to table 1.

As the seasons of agricultural work progress throughout the year, an increasingly large number of the 1-1/4 million workers were employed and a greater number did both types of work in the same quarter. In the first quarter, only 125,000 workers did both types of work. In the second, this number more than doubled, increasing to 260,000, and in the third, when the largest number of these workers were at work, nearly a half million reported that they did both farm and nonfarm work.

Some workers who do both types of work during the year shift permanently from one type to another and are reported as doing both types in only one quarter -- that in which the shift was made. Others may supplement one type of employment with a few weeks in a quarter of the other type of employment. A large number of the workers, however, shift back and forth from one type of employment to another as jobs are available.

From data available concerning the quarters during which each type of work was done, estimates as to the number of persons who may have made a permanent shift from one type of employment to another have been made indirectly on the basis of certain assumptions (table 25).

The number estimated as making a permanent shift is probably an overestimate, as assumptions were used to provide for a minimum estimate of those who shift back and forth in the course of a year. The purpose of these indirect estimates is to indicate that in 1948, at least 800,000 workers were involved in shifts back and forth between farm and nonfarm work that could not have arisen from one more or less permanent shift.

Table 25.- Numbers of 1948 farm wage workers whose pattern of employment (shifts between farm and nonfarm work) could have arisen from one permanent change

Type of shift and employment pattern	:	Farm wage workers reporting nonfarm work
Thousands		
Farm wage workers reporting nonfarm work		1,254
Not making permanent shift		628
Making permanent shift		426
From farm to nonfarm employment		226
Only one type of work in quarter 1/		160
Both types of work in quarter 2/		66
From nonfarm to farm employment		200
Only one type of work in quarter 3/		144
Both types of work in quarter 4/		56

See footnote to table 1.

- 1/ These workers did one or more quarters of farm work and then one or more quarters of nonfarm work. In no quarter did they do both types of work.
- 2/ These workers did one or more quarters of farm work and one or more quarters of nonfarm work, between which they did both types of work in one quarter.
- 3/ These workers did one or more quarters of nonfarm work and then one or more quarters of farm work. In no quarter did they do both types of work.
- 4/ These workers did one or more quarters of nonfarm work and one or more quarters of farm work, between which they did both types of work in one quarter.

Some workers who shift permanently change their residence from farm to nonfarm areas (or the reverse) as they change their type of employment. Others may continue to reside in the same area in which they lived before making the shift and commute daily to their work.

Among the workers not shifting permanently their type of employment, the patterns of farm and nonfarm employment are extremely varied. A few work at both types of work in all four quarters of the year. Others do both types of work in two quarters (often the third and fourth) and still others do the type of work that is not their regular employment in only one quarter of the year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table 26.- Percentage distribution of farm wage workers by types of work,
United States, by quarters, 1948

Quarters in which specified type of work was done	Farm wage workers with farm wage work in:				
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
	1948				
All farm wage workers	100	100	100	100	100
Quarters					
1	36	3	9	21	20
2	21	7	19	22	18
3	16	9	27	21	22
4	27	81	45	36	40
All farm wage workers	100	100	100	100	100
No nonfarm work	67	77	71	70	72
Quarters of nonfarm work					
1	10	7	10	10	8
2	7	6	7	6	6
3	6	5	5	5	5
4	10	5	7	9	9

See footnote to table 1.

Table 27.- Patterns of employment of farm wage workers, United States, by quarters, 1948

Type of work and period	1948	Quarters				Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
		First	Second	Third	Fourth						
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent						
Total	100	33	59	75	57	27	16	21	36		
No nonfarm work	100	38	64	79	72	35	15	18	32		
Some nonfarm work	100	23	51	67	57	11	19	26	44		
In 4 quarters	100	17	40	64	51	12	11	24	53		
In 3 quarters	100	30	52	59	58	11	16	34	39		
In 2 quarters	100	26	54	63	53	9	23	23	45		
In 1 quarter	100	24	58	77	56	13	26	24	37		
Total	100	33	59	75	57	27	16	21	36		
No nonfarm work	100	38	64	79	72	35	15	18	32		
Some nonfarm work	100	23	51	57	57	11	19	26	44		
1st quarter	100	18	48	71	56	12	19	27	42		
2nd quarter	100	19	38	64	54	10	13	28	49		
3rd quarter	100	24	46	58	54	10	14	26	50		
4th quarter	100	26	53	66	52	12	18	25	45		

See footnote to table I.

APPENDIX

Method of Survey.— The estimates presented in this report are based on information obtained for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the Bureau of the Census in its regular Current Population Surveys in January 1946 and in December 1947, 1948 and 1949.^{12/} The surveys were made on national samples of approximately 25,000 households located in 68 areas in 42 States and the District of Columbia. As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. The smaller figures as well as the slight differences between figures should be used with care. The reliability of estimated percentages and averages depends both upon the size of the figure and the size of the totals on which they are based. Small estimated percentages and averages are subject to relatively large sampling variability. The information concerning time worked and wages earned during the year is subject to errors in memory of those who reported.

In addition to the regular questions asked each month by the Bureau of the Census as to personal characteristics, employment status, etc., special questions were asked for each person 14 years old and over in the households included in the survey in both urban and rural areas. In general, the questions asked are similar from one survey to another with the additions in some years of one or two questions not previously asked. In 1948, special questions were asked in the survey relating to the amount of farm wage work done in each quarter of the year, and in 1949 a special question designed to obtain data on migratory workers was included. The questions asked in the surveys covering the years 1948 and 1949 are reproduced on the following pages.

In some cases, time worked and wages earned were not reported. In making adjustments for time worked and wages earned in 1949 for those workers who did not report these items in this year the procedure outlined briefly here was followed. Beginning with the tabulation that had the largest number of cross-classifications, the unknowns were distributed proportionately to the groups which reported on days worked and wages earned. After the unknowns had been distributed to these groups, data as to aggregate time worked and wages earned were adjusted upward by the ratio of the total in a group to the number reporting on time worked and wages earned.

^{12/} Gertrude Bancroft and Robert Pearl of the Bureau of the Census handled the survey operations and tabulations.

SPECIAL QUESTIONS ADDED TO SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 1949 CURRENT POPULATION SURVEYS
MONTHLY REPORT OF THE LABOR FORCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Codes for Column 37: Chief Activity

WK - FW - Doing farm work for CASH wages or salary

WK - FO - Doing any OTHER farm work

WK - NF - Doing NONFARM work

H - Keeping HOUSE

S - Going to SCHOOL

OT - Other

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SPECIAL QUESTIONS ADDED TO SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 1948 CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY
MONTHLY REPORT OF THE LABOR FORCE - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Word Record for Columns 36 and 37: Enter days worked in each quarter

Kind of work	I	II	III	IV	V
	Jan. - Mar.	April - June	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	
	Mon - Sat - 78 Mon - Fri - 65 Sundays - 13	Mon - Sat - 78 Mon - Fri - 65 Sundays - 13	Mon - Sat - 79 Mon - Fri - 66 Sundays - 13	Mon - Sat - 79 Mon - Fri - 66 Sundays - 13	Total
Farm					
Nonfarm					
Farm					
Nonfarm					
Farm					
Nonfarm					

Note: For code for Column 35, see code for Column 37 of special questions for 1949 on page

Coverage of survey.—The surveys obtained information concerning persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1945, for the previous year and in December 1947, 1948, and 1949, for persons working on farms for cash wages during each specified year. In addition to these persons, an estimated 500,000 to 1,000,000 other persons in the various years did some farm wage work during each year. These excluded groups were children under 14 years old, prisoners of war (in 1945), imported foreign workers, persons who entered the armed forces during the year, persons who died during the year, persons in institutions, and some migratory farm workers not fully covered by the survey, including many Mexicans who had left the country before the survey was made. Rough estimates of the size of each of the excluded groups are given in table 28.

Appraisal of the data.—Comparisons of the estimates for 1945 with independent data are available in the appendix to Employment and Wages of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1945, issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in June 1946. These comparisons suggest that the average daily farm wages as reported by hired farm workers or by members of their households tend to be somewhat lower than those reported by the employing farmers. For a fuller discussion of the comparisons, see the Appendix of the earlier report.

The estimate derived from the 1949 survey of the total number of farm wage workers in the United States at any time during the year are in line with a level that might be estimated from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics monthly series on farm employment, with allowances for the exclusion of children under 14 years old and certain other excluded groups. In the last week of September 1949, the BAE series showed 4,156,000 hired workers employed on farms.

Excerpts from Social Security Act Amendments relating to coverage of hired farm workers.—The Social Security Act Amendments of 1950, Public Law 734, 81st Congress, amended the Social Security Act (and parts of the Internal Revenue Code relating to social security taxes) to provide old-age and survivors insurance coverage for regular employees on farms (including domestic workers in homes on farms operated for profit). (Farm operators are excluded from coverage.) Parts of the amended act relating to the definition of regularly employed farm workers under the new law are quoted below. For other aspects of the amendments see the law cited above.

"Agricultural labor performed in any calendar quarter by an employee /is covered if/ the cash remuneration paid for such labor is more than \$50 and such labor is performed for an employer by an individual who is regularly employed by such employer to perform such agricultural labor . . . an individual shall be deemed to be regularly employed by an employer during a calendar quarter only if

- (i) such individual performs agricultural labor . . . for such employer on a full-time basis on sixty days during such quarter, and
- (ii) the quarter was immediately preceded by a qualifying quarter.

For the purposes of the preceding sentence, the term 'qualifying quarter' means (I) any quarter during all of which such individual was continuously employed by such employer, or (II) any subsequent quarter which meets the test of clause (i) if, after the last quarter during all of which such individual was continuously employed by such employer, each intervening quarter met the test of clause (i). Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subparagraph, an individual shall also be deemed to be regularly employed by an employer during a calendar quarter if such individual was regularly employed (upon application of clauses (i) and (ii)) by such employer during the preceding calendar quarter."

Table 28. Estimates of the total number of different persons who worked on farms for wages in 1945
and 1947-49, United States

Type of worker:	1945	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Total persons who did farm wage work in year	4,189 1/ ¹	4,064	4,532	5,090
Persons covered in survey 2/ ²	3,219	3,394	3,752	4,140
Males	2,381	2,587	2,820	3,021
Females	838	807	932	1,119
Persons excluded by definition of survey coverage 2/ ²	770	420	460	490
Children under 14 years of age	400	270	300	320
Prisoners of war	130	--	--	--
Imported foreign workers (not held over for next year)	20 1/ ¹	40	50	60
Persons entering armed forces during year	50	10	10	10
Persons who died during year	50	50	50	50
Persons in institutions	50	50	50	50
Migratory workers not covered in survey 3/ 5/ ²	200	250	320	460

1/ Revised. The estimate for 1945 published in earlier releases was 4,219,000.

2/ For all years, surveys covered persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in midwinter following the year to which the data relate. The survey of 1945 workers was made in January 1946 and the surveys of 1947, 1948, and 1949 workers were made in December of the specified year.

3/ For sources of the 1945 estimates, see pp. 39-40 of Employment and Wages of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1945, Bur. Agr. Econ., 1946. Estimates for the other years developed similarly.

4/ Revised. The estimate for 1945 published in earlier releases was 120,000.

5/ Includes many Mexicans who had left the United States before the surveys were made.

